

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Oak Knoll Golf Course Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2018

ATTENDEES

Present: Commissioners Gardiner and Lewis; Interim Parks Superintendent McFarland; Golf Course Superintendent Laura Harvey; Golf Course Coordinator Tom Cronin; Recreation Superintendent Rachel Dials; Recreation Manager Lonny Flora; Recreation Assistant Haley Fasnacht; Oak Knoll Golf Course Men's League President Bret DeForest; Oak Knoll Golf Course Women's League President Kathy Bates

Absent: APRC Director Michael Black

CALL TO ORDER

Golf Course Coordinator Tom Cronin called the meeting to order at 1:05pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Cronin introduced everyone to the Oak Knoll Men's and Women's League presidents.

Laura Harvey provided updates on maintenance and recent projects. She said 100 sprinkler heads had been installed and there were 200 more to install. Her hopeful deadline was April 15, as TID water would be turned on that day. She said seven shut-off valves had been installed, with one more still needing to be installed.

Jeff McFarland expressed that the overall maintenance upgrade project was ahead of schedule and still on track for completion within two years. Maintenance crews would be working on seeding over the drainage areas so grass could be repaired. With the dry winter, staff hadn't been able to see the full result of the installed drains, but so far they were working and the course was in great condition.

Kathy Bates spoke on behalf of the women's league and asked if driving range conditions would be addressed.

Laura Harvey explained that seeding and watering would help the growth of new grass. So far the new tee area was growing in better than last year.

Kathy Bates asked if any tees would be rebuilt and or repaired.

Jeff McFarland and Laura Harvey expressed concerns for not having the money in the budget at this time but said they would look into finding funds to improve the tees. A small and quick fix would be placing sand and seed buckets on the tee boxes. They would look into putting these on the par 3 tee boxes for now while making a plan to repair / rebuild tees.

Tom Cronin suggested setting a meeting time with Jeff, Laura, Bret and Kathy to go on the golf course and find the tee boxes needing immediate attention.

Jeff McFarland addressed the brush pile off fairway 6 and said it had been moved to the back of the maintenance building in a new brush / slash pile. Commissioner Gardiner asked that the brush pile be moved sooner rather than later.

Laura Harvey said she would be making changes to the old brush pile area and would start working on taking care of other areas on the golf course with proper ruling or hazard areas.

Tom Cronin began reviewing the current budget for the clubhouse. He said the temp employee budget had improved greatly thanks to the shuffling of funds and watching employee hours closely. Laura would now be able to hire two full-time employees and two temps for the summer.

Lonny Flora presented revenue charts from fiscal years 2016 to the present. A discussion ensued about gaining revenue in the off season and bringing in non-golf-related revenues.

Tom Cronin discussed new marketing techniques, advertising and promotions of the golf course and the clubhouse. He said he had set up several new tournaments for 2018 and also scheduled several new events. Juniors camps and women's golf instruction would begin in the form of a new program for women's classes.

Rachel Dials explained that APRC staff were promoting additional events, both golf and non-golf, on the Oak Knoll property. She said it was important to utilize every possible space at Oak Knoll.

Lonny Flora talked about a new survey for the golf course that would be up and running soon. He said he worked with SOURCE from SOU to build a survey to gain community input. The survey would be advertised on social media, in APRC Playguides, at the golf course and possibly through a mailer sent to neighbors within the Oak Knoll subdivision. The survey would be web-based; however, hard copies would also be available in the clubhouse.

Tom Cronin brought up the final topic: dog walking at Oak Knoll. He said he had noticed an increase in human / dog traffic on the course during business hours. Dogs were often not on leash and they were at risk of being hit by golf balls.

Mike Gardner suggested a review of the APRC Dogs policy with a plan toward approaching dog walkers in the most constructive way.

Laura Harvey said she was extremely concerned about the dog situation for both safety and liability reasons.

Tom Cronin asked to approach the Oak Knoll Homeowner's Association (HOA) and bring to their attention the APRC Dogs policy. Rachel Dials suggested setting up a meeting at the clubhouse with APRC staff and the Oak Knoll HOA.

Additional Discussion

None

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The group set a tentative timeframe for the next meeting in May of 2018, with the specific date and time TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Fasnacht, Recreation Assistant, Golf Course Assistant Manager.
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

Disclaimer: These Minutes are not a verbatim record; they are paraphrased.
